REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6 and 9 are cancelled.

Claim 7 is amended.

Support for the amendments of Claim 7 is found at the originally filed claims and throughout the originally filed specification. Additionally, support for the feature of present Claim 7 "wherein the drying is performed by spray drying or spray-freeze drying" is found, for example, at now cancelled Claim 9.

No new matter is believed to have been added.

The indefiniteness rejection of Claim 7 is believed to be obviated by replacement of the phrase "which may comprise heterogeneous catalysts" with the phrase "comprising heterogeneous catalysts," by removal of the phrase "and optionally of dispersions of inorganic support materials" and by removal of the phrase "e) optionally shaping and optionally calcining the mixtures to give the solids." Withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection is respectfully requested.

The anticipation rejection of Claims 7-12 as being unpatentable in view of Hibst is respectfully traversed.

Applicants, along with this paper, have perfected priority to German Patent Application No. 103 35 968.0, filed on August 6, 2003, by submitting a certified English language translation of German Patent Application No. 103 35 968.0.

Applicants note that Hibst was published on July 29, 2004, and filed on August 26, 2003, and that the filing date of priority German Patent Application No. 103 25 968.0 is before Hibst's August 26, 2003, filing date.

Because Applicants have perfected priority, Applicants submit that Hibst is removed as an anticipation reference, absent a showing by the Office that U.S. provisional application

60/476,165, that Hibst claims priority to, supports an anticipation rejection of the present claims.

Withdrawal of the anticipation rejection is requested on this basis alone.

Further Applicants traverse the anticipation rejection on the grounds that Hibst does not describe or suggest all of the features of present Claim 7 and the claims depending therefrom. Hibst is drawn to a process for preparing a multimetal oxide composition (e.g., catalyst) comprising on of the elements Mo and V and at least one of the elements Te and Sb (see, for example, the Abstract of Hibst). This, the process of Hibst produces a single multimetal oxide composition.

In contrast, present Claim 7 is drawn to a process for N different catalysts.

Because Hibst produces a single catalyst, and present Claim 7 produces a library of N different catalysts, Applicants respectfully submit Hibst cannot anticipate present Claim 7 and the claims depending therefrom. Withdrawal of the anticipation rejection is requested on this ground alone.

The anticipation rejection of Claims 7 and 11-12 as being anticipated by Claus is respectfully traversed because Claus does not describe or suggest all of the features of present Claim 7 and the claims depending therefrom.

In present Claim 7, at least two different sprayable solutions, emulsions, and/or dispersions of elements and/or element compounds of chemical elements are produced (e.g., in a)), the solutions, emulsions and/or dispersions are mixed (e.g., in b)), and the mixed solutions are continuously dried by spray-drying or spray-freeze drying in order to obtain dried mixtures (e.g., in c)).

In contrast, Claus appears to describe that combined solutions are impregnated onto a solid support (e.g.., gamma-Al_2O_3) which is then dried at ambient temperature (see, for example, page 325, section 3.2.1 of Claus).

Because Claus does not describe or suggest every feature of present Claim 7 and the claims depending therefrom, Claus cannot anticipate present Claim 7 and the claims depending therefrom.

Withdrawal of the anticipation rejection is respectfully requested.

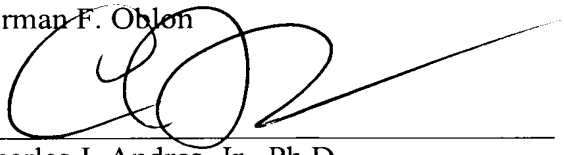
Further, Applicants submit present Claim 7 is not obvious in view of Claus. Page 7, lines 28-32 and page 8, lines 7-10, of the originally filed specification, describe that spray-drying or spray freeze-drying permits rapid drying of the solutions, emulsions and /or dispersion, whereas the method of drying the impregnated supports at ambient temperature of Claus takes a long time.

Another advantage of the method of spray-drying or spray freeze-drying as found in present Claim 7, as described at page 8, lines 18-25, of the originally filed specification, is that the droplet sizes resulting on atomization ranges, for example, from 5 to 1000 μm, giving rise to very small particles consisting of catalytically active elements. Applicants submit these small particles have a higher surface area than the larger particles according to Claus, and thus, that the method of Claim 7 results in increased catalytic activity when compared to the method of Claus.

Applicants submit the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon



Charles J. Andres, Jr., Ph.D.
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 57,537

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)